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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/601,779	06/23/2003	Makoto Nakamura	Saigoh C-301	9525
23474	7590	01/23/2006	EXAMINER	
FLYNN THIEL BOUTELL & TANIS, P.C. 2026 RAMBLING ROAD KALAMAZOO, MI 49008-1631			HARRIS, KATRINA B	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3747	
DATE MAILED: 01/23/2006				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/601,779

Applicant(s)

NAKAMURA, MAKOTO

Examiner

Katrina B. Harris

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 June 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 23 June 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 06/23/03.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

The following is a first action on the merits of application serial no. 10/601,779 filed June 23, 2003.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

Claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Suzuki (6,655,843). Suzuki discloses a crankshaft supporter comprising: a support member which is attached to a cylinder block of an engine to support a crankshaft (8) and which is formed of a matrix of aluminum alloy with a preform cast (50) inside; said support member having a mounting surface in contact with an attachment surface on said cylinder block (4), a bolt hole (18-2) corresponded to a bolt

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hole in said cylinder block (4) and opened to said mounting surface, and a dowel hole in coaxial alignment with said bolt hole and opened to said mounting surface; said preform (50) having a penetrated section in which a through hole defining said bolt hole is formed; and said support member having a recess section which is formed of said matrix so as to shape said dowel hole, said recess section being positioned between said mounting surface and an opposing surface of said penetrated section that faces said mounting surface with said dowel hole being formed entirely within said recess section.

Regarding claim 2, wherein: said support member has a plurality of bolt holes (18-2) therein; and said dowel hole is defined to open to said mounting surface of said support member in coaxial alignment with at least one said bolt hole.

Regarding claim 3, wherein said preform (50) has said opposing surface displaced in a depth direction of said dowel hole so that said recess section formed of said matrix is defined between said mounting surface of said support member, where said dowel hole is formed, and said opposing surface of said penetrated section that faces said mounting surface of said support member.

Regarding claim 4, wherein said preform (50) includes a center section which defines an arcuate bearing cavity therein, and a pair of said penetrated sections disposed on opposite sides of said center section and each having a said through hole defining said bolt hole formed therein; said recess section and the dowel hole associated therewith being associated with only one of said penetrated sections, the opposing surface of said one penetrated section being spaced downwardly a substantial

distance from the mounting surface of the support member so that the depth of the dowel hole formed in the recess section is defined between said mounting surface and the opposing surface of said one penetrated section; and the other said penetrated section having an opposing surface thereon that faces the mounting surface of the support member and is spaced downwardly therefrom by a smaller distance so that the opposing surface on said other penetrated section is at an elevation above the opposing surface on said one penetrated section.

Regarding claim 5, wherein: said preform (50) includes a center section which defines an arcuate bearing cavity therein, and a pair of said penetrated sections disposed on opposite sides of said center section and each having a said through hole defining said bolt hole formed therein; each of said penetrated sections having a said opposing surface thereon which is spaced downwardly a small distance from the mounting surface of the support member, the opposing surfaces on said pair of penetrated sections being at the same height; said dowel hole being associated solely with one of said penetrated sections, said one penetrated section having an enlarged opening which surrounds the through hole and penetrates coaxially downwardly therealong through a selected distance away from said opposing surface; and the matrix defining said recess section penetrating downwardly and filling said enlarged opening to permit forming of said dowel hole which penetrates downwardly from said mounting surface into the matrix defined in said enlarged opening.

Regarding claim 6, a crankshaft supporter comprising: a support member which is attached to a cylinder block of an engine to support a crankshaft and which is

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formed of a matrix of aluminum alloy with a preform (50) cast inside; said support member having a mounting surface in contact with an attachment surface on said cylinder block (4), a bolt hole corresponding to a bolt hole (18-2) in said cylinder block (4) and opened to said mounting surface, and a sleeve-like dowel member in coaxial alignment with said bolt hole and protruding outwardly beyond said mounting surface; said preform (50) having a penetrated section in which a through hole defining said bolt hole is formed; said dowel section including a sleeve-like forming member which is fixed to said preform in coaxial alignment with said bolt hole and which is cantilevered outwardly beyond said mounting surface; and said dowel section having an annular portion which is formed of said matrix and which projects outwardly from said mounting surface in surrounding relationship to said forming member to define a dowel which interfits in an opposed opening formed in said cylinder block (4).

Regarding claim 7, wherein said forming member is integrally and monolithically joined to said preform (50) and projects coaxially away from said opposing surface so as to penetrate outwardly beyond said mounting surface.

Regarding claim 8, wherein said forming member comprises a separate sleeve element which has one end fixed to said preform (50) in coaxial alignment with the through hole, said sleeve element projecting outwardly away from said opposing surface and outwardly beyond said mounting surface.

Regarding claim 9, wherein said preform (50) includes a center portion defining an upwardly-oriented concave bearing region, the preform also including a pair of said perforated sections positioned on opposite sides of said center section, each said

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perforated section having an opposing surface which is spaced downwardly from said mounting surface, the opposing surfaces on said pair of perforated sections being in substantially the same plane.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. U.S. Patent No. 6,942,391 issued to Nakamura is a similar system.

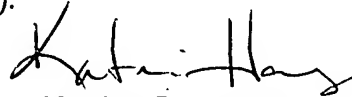
Communication

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Katrina B. Harris whose telephone number is 571-272-4842. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:30 AM -3:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Henry Yuen can be reached on 571-272-4856. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.


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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Katrina B. Harris
Examiner
Art Unit 3747

KBH



Tony M. Argenbright
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3747